

Serial No. 09/991,407

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method of absorbing aqueous vaginal fluids comprising the steps of:

- a) inserting a first absorbent device into a vaginal cavity, the absorbent device comprising an absorbent body and an indicator structure arranged and configured within the absorbent body, the indicator structure comprising a resilient member maintained in a strained configuration by a restraint; wherein the resilient member is capable of reverting to a relaxed configuration upon the weakening of the restraint and the restraint weakens upon exposure to moisture
- b) allowing the first absorbent device to absorb sufficient aqueous vaginal fluids to weaken the restraint and to permit the resilient member to revert to the relaxed configuration;
- c) detecting changed dimensions of the first absorbent device caused by the reversion of the resilient member to the relaxed configuration, while inserted; and
- d) removing the first absorbent device from the vaginal cavity.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of inserting a second absorbent device into the vaginal cavity after the step of removing the first absorbent device from the vaginal cavity.

Claims 17-19 (canceled)